The Night Ministry: Facing the Loss of a Founder

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What is Homelessness?

- It is magnified by.....
- The lack of affordable rental housing
- The large number of persons with poverty and near poverty income levels
- The increased incidence of domestic violence
- The economic recession which results in house foreclosures

Housing

- The need for safe and affordable housing is fundamental for ending homelessness.
- There are many different options for housing for the homeless,
  - Shelters, jump start programs, emergency, transitional, and permanent housing
  - Social housing, transitional housing, settlement services, long-term supported housing, help with private rent

[Image: Homeless Shelter]

- [http://www.prlot.org/11770707-homeless-shelter.jpg](http://www.prlot.org/11770707-homeless-shelter.jpg)

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A homeless person is defined as an individual....

- without permanent housing
- who may live on the streets
- stays in a shelter, single room occupancy facilities, abandoned building or vehicle; or any other unstable or non-permanent situation

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Causes/Risk Factors

- Displacement of people
- Industrialization
- Wars and subsequent problems
- Natural disasters
- Racial inequities
- Medical problems
- Cutbacks in federal funding/stricter eligibility requirements


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Misconceptions about Homelessness

- A majority of people who are homeless have social problems like mental illness or drug abuse
- Shelter space is available to relieve the problem of homelessness across the country
- People who are homeless are unemployed
- Government initiatives are meeting both the crisis for long-term needs related to homeless people.

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Homelessness and families

• Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, making up 1/3 of homeless population
• Families are unable to afford housing because of their financial circumstances.
  • Domestic violence contributes to homelessness among children and women.
• Homelessness contributes to the break up of families

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